IN THE CLAIMS

A listing of the claims of the present application is as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a dynamic alert indication to a user of a signal receiving device, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a signal transmitted from a signal transmitting device, to determine at least one environment-appropriate mode to be associated with an alert indication, wherein the processing step includes the step of accessing information associated with a user of the signal receiving device and evaluating context provided by the environment that the user is in to determine the at least one environment-appropriate mode to be associated with the alert indication; and

alerting the user of the signal receiving device via the alert indication that the signal has been received by the signal receiving device;

wherein context is also useable to automatically modify at least one of an operating mode associated with the signal receiving device and an alert indication mode associated with a signal intended for the signal receiving device, independent of at least an identity of the user of the signal receiving device, upon the signal receiving device being present in an environment that warrants mode modification.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the mode of the alert indication is at least one of audible and non-audible.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the non-audible mode comprises vibrating the signal receiving device.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the audible mode comprises one or more ring tones.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the mode of the alert indication is suggested by a sender of the signal.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the accessing step occurs within the signal receiving device.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of evaluating the signal to determine its relative importance based on content of the signal.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the environment that the user is in is a context service environment.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the signal receiving device comprises one of a cellular telephone, personal digital assistant, and a pager.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a dynamic alert indication to a user of a signal receiving device, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a signal to determine at least one environment-appropriate mode to be associated with an alert indication, wherein the processing step includes the step of accessing information associated with a user of a signal receiving device and evaluating context provided by the environment that the user is in to determine the at least one environment-appropriate mode to be associated with the alert indication; and

receiving the signal from a signal transmitting device in the signal receiving device, wherein the signal alerts the user of the signal receiving device via the alert indication that the signal has been received by the signal receiving device;

wherein context is also useable to automatically modify at least one of an operating mode associated with the signal receiving device and an alert indication mode associated with a

signal intended for the signal receiving device, independent of at least an identity of the user of the signal receiving device, upon the signal receiving device being present in an environment that warrants mode modification.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of sending a message and providing a dynamic alert indication therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a recipient of the message;

accessing a database to determine the recipient's alert indication preferences;

determining an environment-appropriate method of alert indication based on the recipient's alert indication preferences and context provided by the environment that the recipient is in; and

transmitting the message and alert indication to the user device;

wherein context is also useable to automatically modify at least one of an operating mode associated with the signal receiving device and an alert indication mode associated with a signal intended for the signal receiving device, independent of at least an identity of a user of the signal receiving device, upon the signal receiving device being present in an environment that warrants mode modification.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising the step of determining whether the recipient of the message subscribes to a database system which records the recipient's alert indication preferences.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising the step of transforming the message prior to transmitting the message.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising the step of determining the context of the recipient prior to transmitting the message.

17. through 19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for providing a dynamic alert indication to a user, the apparatus comprising:

a storage unit containing information associated with the user;

a processor for processing a signal from a transmitter to determine an environment-appropriate mode of an alert indication based on at least a portion of the information contained in the storage unit and context provided by the environment that the user is in; and

a signal receiving device for receiving the signal, the signal receiving device having means for sending the alert indication to the user;

wherein context is also useable to automatically modify at least one of an operating mode associated with the signal receiving device and an alert indication mode associated with a signal intended for the signal receiving device, independent of at least an identity of the user of the signal receiving device, upon the signal receiving device being present in an environment that warrants mode modification.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein the storage unit is in the signal receiving device.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 20, wherein the storage unit is in a service provider infrastructure.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of providing a dynamic alert indication to a user of a signal receiving device, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a signal transmitted from a signal transmitting device to determine at least one preferred environment-appropriate mode of alert indication to be utilized by the signal receiving device while within the environment in which the user of the signal receiving device is located, the determination being at least based on context information provided by the environment; and

alerting the user of the signal receiving device via the preferred environment-appropriate mode of alert indication;

wherein context information is also useable to automatically modify an operating mode associated with the signal receiving device, independent of at least an identity of the user of the signal receiving device, upon the signal receiving device being present in an environment that warrants mode modification.

24. (Original) The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the preferred mode of alert indication comprises a non-audible mode of alert.

25. (Original) The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the environment is a context service environment.

26. (Original) The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the processing step determines that no mode of alert indication may be utilized by the signal receiving device while within the environment.

27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 23, further comprising the step of blocking transmissions to and from the signal receiving device wherein a blocking instruction is determined during the processing step.

28. (New) A method of providing a dynamic alert indication to a user of a signal receiving device, the method comprising the steps of:

processing a signal transmitted from a signal transmitting device, to determine at least one environment-appropriate mode to be associated with an alert indication, wherein the processing step includes the step of accessing information associated with a user of the signal receiving device and evaluating context provided by the environment that the user is in to determine the at least one environment-appropriate mode to be associated with the alert indication; and

alerting the user of the signal receiving device via the alert indication that the signal has been received by the signal receiving device;

wherein context is also useable to automatically modify at least one of an operating mode associated with the signal receiving device and an alert indication mode associated with a signal intended for the signal receiving device, independent of at least an identity of the user of the signal receiving device, upon the signal receiving device being present in an environment that warrants mode modification;

further wherein at least a portion of the context is provided to at least another entity.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the at least another entity comprises a context service.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the at least another entity comprises another component in a infrastructure in which the signal receiving device resides.